

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIE-00

INRE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 /051 W
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FM AMEMB BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4597

S E C R E T BUENOS AIRES 1224

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, ELAB, AR

SUBJECT: MRS. PERON'S TROUBLES INCREASE: KEY MEETING TODAY (FEB 23)

1. IMPORTANT MEETING BEING HELD THIS EVENING (FEB 23) BETWEEN MRS. PERON AND DELEGATION OF TEN PERONIST LABOR, CONGRESSIONAL AND PARTY LEADERS. PERONIST PARTY SPLIT ON FEB 19, WITH ULTRA-VERTICALISTAS, WHO UNSWERVINGLY SUPPORT MRS. PERON, RESIGNING FROM COUNCIL. CENTRAL PARTY ORGANIZATION IS NOW THEREFORE IN HANDS OF THOSE WHO BELIEVE MRS. PERON MUST EITHER OUST "PALACE ENTOURAGE" AND CHANGE POLICIES OR RESIGN. DELEGATION OF TEN IS EXPECTED TO DEMAND THESE CHANGES IN MEETING TODAY. MRS. PERON IS EXPECTED TO REFUSE OR AT MOST "THINK IT OVER." THIS COULD PUSH DISSIDENTS, INCLUDING MANY PERONISTS WHO HAVE HERETOFORE SUPPORTED MRS. PERON, INTO OUTRIGHT OPPOSITION TO HER. OUTCOME OF MEETING MAY THEREFORE BE A KEY FACTOR IN DEVELOPING SITUATION HERE. IF LABOR WITHDRAWS SUPPORT FROM MRS. PERON'S GOVERNMENT, DOOR WILL BE OPENED EVEN FURTHER THAT IT ALREADY WAS TO MILITARY INTERVENTION.

2. EMBASSY SOURCES IN POLITICAL PARTIES AND CONGRESS TODAY EXPRESSING FATALISTIC VIEW OF SITUATION. UNLESS CONGRESS CAN BEGIN TO ACT THIS WEEK (WHICH MOST AGREE IS UNLIKELY) OR UNLESS MRS. PERON GOES ON LEAVE (WHICH AOSL UNLIKELY) COUP MAY BE ARMED IN VERY NEAR FUTURE. SOURCES OPINED THAT SHOULD MRS. PERON RUDELY
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REBUFF PERONIST DELEGATION TODAY, THIS JUST MIGHT (BUT ONLY MIGHT)

SWING OVER ENOUGH PERONIST LABOR DEPUTIES AND OTHER HERETOFORE
VERTICALISTAS SO THAT DECLARATION OF INABILITY WOULD BECOME REAL
POSSIBILITY. AGAIN, THEREFORE, OUTCOME OF TODAY'S MEETING MAY BE
OF KEY IMPORTANCE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL STABILITY, POLITICAL SITUATION, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT, MEETINGS, POLITICAL LEADERS, LABOR UNION OFFICIALS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BUENOS01224
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760067-0918
From: BUENOS AIRES
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760224/aaaaauyx.tel
Line Count: 66
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 JUL 2004 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <21 OCT 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MRS. PERON'S TROUBLES INCREASE: KEY MEETING TODAY (FEB 23)
TAGS: PINT, ELAB, AR, (PERON, MARIA ESTELA MARTINEZ DE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006